

# Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Mitigation & Preparedness



Washington Military  
Department  
Emergency  
Management  
Division  
Camp Murray  
Washington  
[www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)

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**Note to Editors**

While this information was originally released Aug. 25, we are re-issuing it to highlight tomorrow's statewide earthquake drill. In light of the current public interest in emergency preparedness and, in particular, in preparing for catastrophic disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and last December's Indian Ocean Tsunami, please give it the highest possible dissemination.

*September is National Preparedness Month and Weather Radio Awareness Month*

## Statewide Earthquake and Tsunami Drill set for Wednesday

Camp Murray, Wash. – Government agencies, businesses, schools and citizens will participate in a statewide earthquake drill on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

**The statewide earthquake drill will occur between 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sept. 14 and will coincide with a test of the tsunami warning communications system on Washington's Pacific coast.**

The drill will begin with a statewide Emergency Alert System message over radio and television stations about what to do when the ground starts to shake. The message will serve as signal for Washington residents to "drop, cover, and hold" for personal earthquake protection in their residences, schools and workplaces.

The statewide earthquake drill provides the public with a high-profile opportunity to prepare for emergencies as part of September's National Preparedness Month.

### **September is National Preparedness Month**

In addition to participating in Wednesday's drill, government agencies, businesses and schools are also using National Preparedness Month to review emergency response plans. Also, on Sept. 11, the state's emergency response community highlighted the importance of 9-1-1 service to public health and safety.

A Preparedness Month packet features a new state guide to weather safety and preparedness information, information about the use of 9-1-1 for contacting emergency services including the use of cell phones and the internet, state Department of Health information about protective actions against the spread of flu, a homeland security guide, a CD on the dangers of methamphetamines; and a poster for the statewide earthquake drill on Sept. 14.

To obtain Preparedness Month materials and for assistance with disaster planning, contact your local emergency management office. A listing of those offices can be found on EMD's website at [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov). Preparedness materials are available to download from the EMD website at <http://emd.wa.gov/5-prog/prgms/pubed/05-campaign/05-campaign-idx.htm>.

### **September is also Weather Radio Awareness Month**

Washington state is also observing Weather Radio Awareness Month in September. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department are co-sponsors of the campaign to encourage the use of weather radios as a means to immediately receive emergency messages. For further information about weather radios, contact Ted Buehner, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at NOAA's Seattle office, (206) 526-6857; or the National Weather Service forecast offices in Spokane, (509) 244-0537; Portland, (503) 261-9248; or Pendleton, (541) 276-4493.

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